

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) Accomplishments, 2004**

**Presentation to SFER Task Force and WRAC  
December 1, 2004, Duck Key, FL  
By Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, SFWMD**



# WRAC Creation and Purpose

- Created by SFWMD Governing Board - March 2001.
- 48 Members appointed by Governing Board.
- Represent Citizens, Utilities, Environmental Groups, Agriculture, Indian Tribes, Business, State and Federal Agencies
- Purpose: Advise Governing Board about water resource issues in South Florida

# WRAC Charge

- **Consensus Recommendations to Governing Board about:**
  - CERP
  - Regional Water Supply Plans
  - Other restoration efforts
  - effects of human activities on South Florida's natural resources.
- **WRAC also designated as advisory body to South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF)**

# WRAC Meetings – '04

- Ten “Regular Monthly” Meetings  
January – December 2004
- 42 “Issues Workshops” same period
- Issues ranged from Long Term Plan to  
CERP Issues and Water Supply Plans

# July 2003 Joint Meeting

- The WRAC and Task Force last met in July 2003 on North Key Largo.
- WRAC Update provided by Mike Collins:
  - CERP/CUP Rules (“B” List Rules)
  - CERP Recreation Master Plan
  - Long Term Conceptual Plan
  - Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan

# WRAC Accomplishments

- **Improved Long Term Plan on Water Quality.**
- **Improved Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan.**
- **Recommended Recreational Access and Public Use Policy, adopted by Governing Board.**
- **Produced “Guiding Principles” for CERP/CUP as an interim process to determine consistency of the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan and CERP.**

# WRAC Accomplishments, Cont'd

- Improved SFWMD's Alternative Water Supply program
- Recommended Upper East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan Update to Governing Board; adopted by Board

# WRAC Accomplishments, Cont'd.

- **Recommended Improvements to Lake Okeechobee “WSE” Water Level Regulation Schedule, including:**
  - **SFWMD have system operational flexibility to prevent MFL exceedances in Caloosahatchee River**
  - **Supply Side Management Protocols be adopted**



# WRAC Accomplishments, Cont'd.

- Held stakeholder workshops on CERP Issues, including Interim Goals and Targets, Initial CERP Update, Master Implementation Sequencing Plan and Guidance Memos
  - Stakeholders recommended improvements in these documents
  - WRAC will provide comments on Guidance Memos, esp. GM 5/6

# WRAC Accomplishments, Cont'd.

- **Held Issues Workshops on:**
  - **Biscayne Bay Minimum Flows and Levels**
  - **SFWMD Land and Water Permitting Authorities**
  - **Kissimmee Basin, Lower East Coast and Lower West Coast Regional Water Supply Plan Updates**
  - **Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan**
  - **Initial Reservations of Water**
  - **Supply Side Management**

# WRAC Accomplishments, Cont'd

- **Presentations to WRAC on other Issues:**
  - **SFWMD Ten Year Strategic Plan**
  - **Combined Structural and Operational Plan**
  - **Aquifer Storage and Recovery**
  - **Florida Water Law (Council of 100 Report)**
  - **State and Federal Legislation**
  - **“Big Three” CERP Reservoir Projects**
  - **Loxahatchee River Restoration**
  - **Southern Indian Prairie Basin Draft Water Management Plan**
  - **Lake Tohopekaliga Drawdown Results**
  - **Recover Performance Measures**
  - **Hurricane Impacts on Regional System**